

2016 Children's Summit • Kearney NE • September 8, 2016 • 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Breakout Session E: Utilizing Services of Mediation Centers for Youth and Families

Panel Members:

Kate Benish, Probation

Audrey Elliott, GAL/Attorney

Charles Lieske, Mediation West, (Moderator)

Randin Roland, Judge

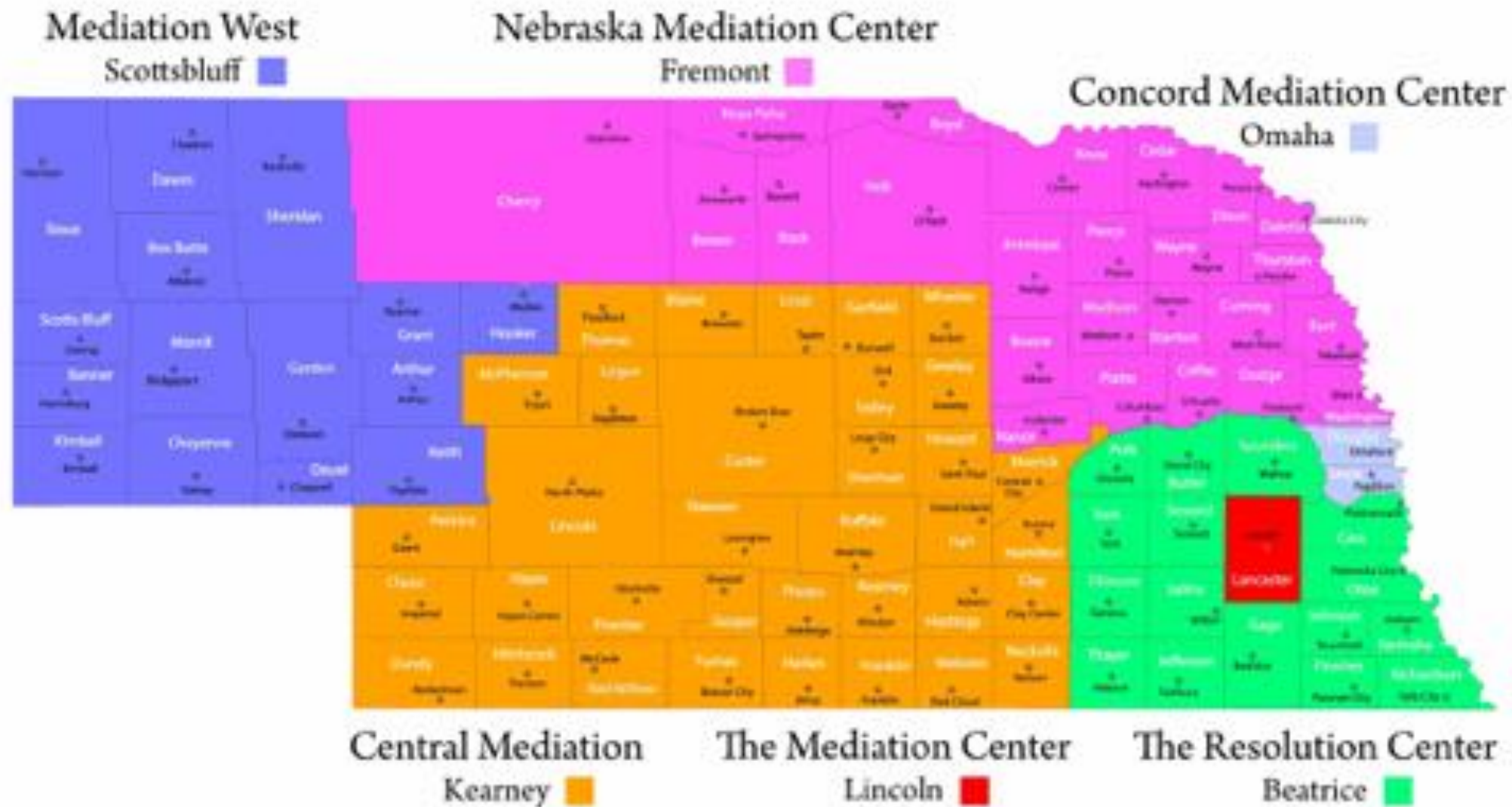
Lindsay Snyder, GAL/Attorney

Jennifer Taylor, DHHS

Today's Agenda

- Brief Presentation
 - Nebraska's Mediation Center Regions
 - Why Utilize the Services of a Mediation Center
 - Types of Services for Juveniles and Families
 - Child Welfare
 - Juvenile Justice
 - Other Services
- Panel Discussion
 - Introductions and How Each Member Has Used Mediation Center Services
 - Benefits Panel Members Have Seen from Services
 - Questions and Input from Audience Members
 - Changes Panel Members Would Like to See to Services

Nebraska Mediation Center Regions



Why Utilize a Mediation Center?

Having an impartial third party helps:

- foster relationships
- provide an impartial facilitator and/or setting
- budgets, as a lower-cost alternative to other services
- speed the process for juveniles and families
- offer the protection of confidentiality and privilege, in many circumstances

Center Services for Juveniles

- Under §43-247
 - Child Welfare Conferencing
 - Juvenile Justice Conferencing
- Other Services
 - Parenting Plans
 - Family Relationships
 - Special Education

Cases Under §43-247

3(a), 3(b), or 3(c)

CHILD WELFARE

Juvenile is in need:

- Homeless or Destitute
- Abandoned or Neglected
- Lacks Proper Care
- Habitually Disobedient
- Mentally Ill & Dangerous

(1), (2), or (4)

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Juvenile committed a crime:

- Felony
- Misdemeanor
- Infraction
- Traffic
- Ordinance Violation

*Court has Jurisdiction over the parents in ALL cases

Child Welfare Conferences

Service Type	When	Desired Outcomes
Prehearing Conferencing (PHC)	at initial removal hearing	Front load the process; reduce time to permanency by identifying needed services and securing parental commitment; Involving/educating families
Prehearing Permanency (PHPR)	prior to 12 month permanency	Update on child(ren) & progress/struggles of parents; expedite reunification or other permanency plan
Prehearing TPR (PHTPR)	prior to termination of parental rights	Determine if case ready for termination; discuss voluntary relinquishment and other permanency choices
Child welfare mediation (CWM)	anytime	Address small group conflicts (foster parent/parent; caseworker/parent, etc.)
Child welfare facilitation (CWF)	anytime	Address large group needs (immediate change of placement; disagreement over plans, etc.)
Family group conferencing (FGC)	Anytime – ideally 5-6 months after initial removal	Provide comprehensive facilitated dialogue and planning for children by parents, extended family, other relatives, professionals; Development of a family-created, Department-approved plan.

Juvenile Justice Conferences

Service Type		When	Desired Outcomes
Juvenile Victim Offender Conferencing (VOC) <i>An evidence-based facilitated dialogue between the juvenile law violator and the victim.</i>	Tier 1	Prior to Filing (Community, Law Enforcement or Diversion referral*)	Restitution, victim justice and closure, community peace and reduction in recidivism.
	Tier 2	Post Filing (County attorney or judge referral*)	
	Tier 3	Post Disposition (Judge-ordered* condition of probation or probation officer-referred* service)	
Expedited Family Group Conference (EFGC) <i>Emergency dialogue and planning for children by parents, extended family and professionals.</i>		Post Disposition (as part of the array of services offered through probation)	Most often used in an attempt to save a contested placement or identify an emergency placement.
Conflict Mediation <i>Facilitated dialogue between parties in conflict.</i>		Post Disposition (as part of the array of services offered through probation)	Reduction of conflict between parties to a case.

**Referral/order for the mediation center to assess whether appropriate.*

Other Mediations/Facilitations

Service Type	When	Why
Parenting Plans	As couples transition from a romantic relationship to parenting from two homes; or, couples parenting from two homes experience a change that requires modification to an existing plan.	Create plans for parenting time that are in the best interest of the child(ren), and also, to the extent possible, meet the parents' needs.
Family	anytime	Address child-to-child fighting, parent-child issues (curfew, driving, relationships, communication or running away).
Special Education	anytime	Address disagreements, communication problems, or strained relationships between parent(s) and school district(s) (including: identification, evaluation, educational placement, or provision of the free and appropriate public education of learners with disabilities.



MEDIATION WEST

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